

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 13527 130220Z

21

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

COME-00 TRSE-00 AGR-05 /068 W

----- 113915

R 130120Z NOV 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7994

INFO USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 13527

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: EAGR, CH

SUBJECT: NEW PRC GRAIN CLAIM FOR 1974 AND ESTIMATE FOR 1975.

1. AN AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION OFFICER IN HONG KONG PASSED CONGEN THE CONTENTS OF AN AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY MESSAGE FROM PEKING REPORTING A MEETING BETWEEN NOTED BRITISH AUTHOR AND CHINA EXPERT NEVILE MAXWELL AND CHINESE AGRICULTURAL OFFICIALS AT THE "VICE MINISTER LEVEL". ACCORDING TO MAXWELL, CHINESE OFFICIALS STATED GRAIN PRODUCTION IN 1974 REACHED 274 MILLION TONS AND THAT THE PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE FOR 1975 IS 285 MILLION TONS. MAXWELL REPORTEDLY PRESSED THE CHINESE ON THE 1974 CLAIM AND IS STAISFIED THAT THEY WERE FULLY AWARE OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NEW FIGURE.

2. COMMENTS: THE FIGURE OF 274 MILLION TONS IN 1974 IS MUCH HIGHER THAN CURRENT USG ESTIMATES OF FROM 255-265 MILLION TONS AND ALSO SEEMS TO CONTRADICT PRC PUBLISHED PRODUCTION CLAIMS OF 2.4 TIME 1949 OUTPUT; WHICH WOULD BE EQUIVALENT TO ABOUT 260 MILLION TONS. THE 2.4 CLAIM HAS BEEN REPEATED BY NCNA (NOVEMBER 9) WHITHIN THE LAST WEEK.

3. MAXWELL HAS GOOD CONNECTIONS IN THE PRC--HE VISITED CHINA IN 1973 AT CHOU EN-LAI'S INVITATION, AND IS PRESENTLY WORKING ON A STUDY OF COMMUNES IN THE PRC WITH CHINESE ASSISTANCE.

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BECAUSE OF HIS EXCELLENT CHINA CREDENTIALS WE ARE REPORTING

THIS INFORMATION. DESPITE THE STARTLING DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
HIS FIGURES AND OTHER CURRENT ESTIMATES.

4. USLO MAY WANT TO FOLLOW UP ON THIS WITH MAXWELL IF HE IS
STILL IN PEKING.
CROSS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, DATA, GRAINS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975HONGK13527
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750394-0953
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2003
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